
CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT



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Arrest Made In Penn Valley Arson Fire

Auburn – Peace Officers from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit made an arrest today for a recent Penn Valley arson fire. A CDF Arson Investigator, assisted by Penn Valley Fire Department, determined that the Monday, October 17, 2005 fire at 18036 Foxtail Drive in Lake Wildwood, Penn Valley was an arson fire. The structure, a residential home, sustained major damage from the fire.

Arrested and charged today with one count of felony arson to a structure was Virginia Allbritton of Penn Valley. Ms. Allbritton was booked into the Nevada County Sheriffs' Department.

"Arson is an incredibly dangerous and destructive crime. Each year firefighters are killed fighting these fires and lives and property are destroyed," stated CDF Unit Chief Tony Clarabut. Under CDF policy, every fire is investigated. The investigation determines whether the cause of a fire is accidental, an act of nature or arson. "Arson of any type, wildland, structure or vehicle, will be investigated and prosecuted," Chief Clarabut said. CDF Arson and Bomb Investigators have a 90% conviction rate; making CDF one of the most successful and respected groups in the fire and police services nationally.

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